

GOVERNOR JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM

June 29, 2007

Hello, this is Governor Jennifer Granholm.

On Sunday July 1, more than half a million Michigan workers are getting a raise! That's right, thanks to a law that I signed last year, the minimum wage has already gone from \$5.15 an hour to \$6.95 an hour. And now, it's moving up to \$7.15 an hour.

What a great step forward for Michigan's working families. This increase will put a little more money in the pockets of Michigan citizens who are working hard every day to pay rent, to fill up their gas tanks, and to put food on the table for their kids.

And, there's still one more increase coming – when it takes effect next year at this time, the total increase from \$5.15 up to \$7.40 an hour will mean that full time minimum wage workers have an additional \$288 of income every month.

And, economists tell us that the dollars that these minimum wage workers earn go right back into the economy, so this is good for Michigan citizens across the board.

Raising the minimum wage is just one part of my comprehensive economic plan.

We're putting Michigan families first by creating the state's first-ever earned income tax credit, which puts more money in the pockets of working families.

We're fighting for fair trade that allows Michigan workers to compete on a level playing field with workers across the world.

We're diversifying Michigan's economy to create good-paying jobs with high wages that cannot be outsourced.

We're improving our schools and making college affordable and accessible for every Michigan student through the Michigan Promise scholarship. And, we're working on creating universal access to affordable health care.

In these tough economic times, we need to make smart decisions for Michigan's future. Our plan is smart, it's comprehensive, and we're seeing positive signs across the state as new companies choose Michigan as the place to grow and create jobs.

We know that in Michigan we have the best workers in the world, and we have more engineering graduates every year than almost every other state, and we are the North American epicenter of automotive research and design. We have so many good things happening.

We need to keep pumping up our economy and making smart decisions for the future – raising the minimum wage is one part of it, but we need to keep on investing in our kids' schools, investing our citizens' health care, investing to keep our communities safe.

Thank you for listening.